

March 1, 2023

**Oppose:** SB 1096 AN ACT CONCERNING THE CHARTER SCHOOL APPROVAL PROCESS.

**Support:** HB 6763 AN ACT CONCERNING AN AUDIT OF THE STATE-WIDE MASTERY EXAMINATION.

**Support:** SB 1093 AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE JUVENILE JUSTICE POLICY AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE CONCERNING EDUCATION.

**Support:** SB 1095: AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS.

Senator McCorry, Representative Currey, Senator Berthel, Representative McCarty and Members of the Education Committee:

My name is Constanza Segovia and I live in Hartford. I'm an organizer with *Hartford Deportation Defense*. Our organization represents 170+ immigrant families and their neighbors in the Hartford area. We are members of the *HUSKY For Immigrants* and the *Recovery For All* coalitions.

**I urge you to oppose [SB 1096](#) which would take away our democratic oversight over the approval and funding of new charter schools.** Currently, all public school funding is approved by the legislature, which is elected by voters and hears testimony from the public. Why should we take away that democratic oversight from the legislature and the public, and hand over that decision to an appointed board? Keep the existing process, which gives the public and elected legislators a voice. We don't need to fast-track new charter schools. We need to put all of our energy in supporting our existing public schools so that no parent feels the need to choose something different in order to get the best possible education for their child. Hartford Public Schools is facing a \$24 million budget deficit for the 2023-24 fiscal year. Our children need good, accountable, and equitable public schools. This is something we can have, and we should not be distracted from this essential goal. The poorest children in our state should have access to the best schooling available in the state, period. **There is currently a bill in the finance committee that proposes some really exciting ways to increase our revenue. I hope members of this committee will familiarize themselves with the tax reform opportunities in HB5673 and use them to invest in our public education.**

**In regards to equity, I also urge you to support [SB 1095](#):** ALL students deserve to feel safe, secure, and supported in their places of learning. Racial discrimination and inequities have long been documented in our nation's system of policing, and the impact of uneven policing always falls on our Black and Latine communities. With the prevalence of School Resource Officers (SROs), law enforcement officers assigned to schools, the negative impacts of policing follow our kids into their places of learning. Instead, we need professionals trained to deliver students necessary developmental and behavioral health resources, not armed officers that intimidate children and are ill-equipped to support in times of crisis.

**I also support [SB 1093](#) because students deserve smaller class sizes.** Not surprisingly, research from 2010 notes that teachers were able to interact with individual students more frequently and use a greater variety of teaching strategies. This is a positive change we can make that will have a positive impact on both students and teachers across our state..

**Lastly, I urge you to support [HB 6763](#)** because this bill will empower teachers to "teach beyond the test" and create assessments that are appropriate for our students. Teachers are best equipped in finding ways to assess how much their students are learning in a way that is joyful and expansive for all involved. Having more agency in their own classrooms will have a better impact in our kids' education while keeping teachers happier at their jobs.

Thanks for your time and for the opportunity to testify.

Constanza Segovia

Hartford CT